

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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P R 072230 SEPT 76

FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 881

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 369

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC: MX

SUBJ: W/W ARRESTS: AMERICAN PRISONERS HUNGER STRIKE

1. ON SEPTEMBER 6 THE MEXICO CITY PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WOULD SEND A BILL AND A CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENT TO CONGRESS WHICH WOULD MAKE PRISONERS CONVICTED OF DRUG OFFENSES ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE AND WOULD GIVE THE PRESIDENT AUTHORITY TO SIGN PRISONER EXCHANGE TREATIES WITH FOREIGN NATIONS.

2. THE CONTENTS OF THE ARTICLE HAVE BEEN MADE KNOWN TO PRISON DIRECTORS IN THE MAZATLAN CONSULAR DISTRICT AND TO AMERICAN PRISONER SPOKESMEN IN EACH PRISON.

3. PRISONERS WERE ADVISED TO COOL IT TO AVOID HAMPERING ANY UPCOMING PROCEEDINGS NOW IN THE MILL. WITH LUKEWARM INTEREST ALREADY PREVAILING, THIS ARTICLE MAY HELP CURTAIL PROPOSED STRIKE'S EFFECTIVENESS.

4. REPORTS FROM MAZATLAN PRISON INDICATE THAT PRISONERS THERE DID NOT GO ON HUNGER STRIKE. ONE REASON MAY HAVE BEEN THAT MEXICAN PRISONERS THREATENED WIPE OUT THEIR PERSONAL FOOD SUPPLIES. MEXICAN CITY PRISON OFFICIAL SPOKE IN MAZATLAN PRISON SEPT. 6 AND EXPLAINED PROJECTED LEGISLATION TO PRISONERS.

5. LOS MOCHIS PRISONER STATED THAT STRIKE BEGAN MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 7 AND THAT 7 AMERICAN PRISONERS OUT OF 12 PARTICIPATED. PRISONERS STATED THAT TRUE FAST IS IMPOSSIBLE BUT THAT THEY ARE TAKING TEA LIBERALLY LACED WITH HONEY AND LEMON. THEIRS IS QUOTE
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TOKEN PARTICIPATION UNQUOTE.

6. IN LA PAZ, PRISONERS' STATEMENTS ON PARTICIPATION VARY. ONE SAID QUOTE WE ARE FAKING IT THOUGH UNQUOTE PRISONER STATED THAT OVER WEEK END SEPT 4 AND 5 ENTIRE PRISON INCLUDING MEXICANS STRUCK TO PROTEST TOO FEW VISITING DAYS. THEY ASKED FOR REMOVAL OF NEW CHIEF OF GUARDS AND PERMISSION TO RECEIVE FRUIT. PRISONER COMMENTED THAT ALL REQUESTS WERE HONORED AND STRIKE TERMINATED.

7. NO INTEREST IN HUNGER STRIKE IN CULIACAN, OR TEPIC.

8. WILL UPDATE AS NECESSARY.
MATTHEWS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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